

Remarks

As a preliminary matter, applicant wishes to thank Examiners Tate and Koser for interviewing with the attorney of record, Richard Tun, on September 14, 2010, at about 4 pm (EST). Various amendments were discussed, including the presently proposed amendment to claim 1. At the time the examiners mentioned that such an amendment might overcome the present Willems prior art reference. However, an RCE would have to be filed for them to reconsider the matter and/or perform a new search. Accordingly, Applicant now submits an RCE with this amendment.

Claims 1, 2, 5-8 are pending. Claims 9-26 have been withdrawn.

Claim 1 has been amended to now recite, *inter alia*, "culturing the cells in the presence of NM23 protein, without any cytokines other than cytokines IL-3 and/or SCF..." Support for this amendment can be found on various parts of the specification, including page 7, paragraph 2.

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 5-8 under 35 USC § 102/103 as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious over Willems et al is respectfully traversed. Essentially, Willems et al. does not disclose a method of "culturing the cells in the presence of NM23 protein, without any cytokines other than cytokines IL-3 and/or SCF." In this respect, Willems discloses using NM23 with cytokines IL-3, SCF, FL (Flt-ligand), IL1 and IL6. Thus, not only does Willems not disclose applicant's limited combination, but the combination, as claimed is not obvious over Willems' disclosure.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant believes that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully solicits a Notice of Allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees required associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3881.

October 7, 2010

Respectfully submitted,



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